

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT

--

CD NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

DATE DIST. 9 Oct 1950

NO. OF PAGES 4

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Bulgarian; German

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

BLAST ARTISTS FOR OPPOSING COMMUNIST PARTY;
SET UP PROPAGANDA COMMITTEES

SAYS CLASS ENEMY WORKS AMONG ARTISTS -- Sofia Izgrev, 16 Aug 50

A group of Bulgarian artists headed by Aleksandur Zhendov is openly opposing Communist Party policies in the realm of art, as established by the Fifth Party Congress. The tolerance shown so far by the Central Committee toward the misled group has now been exhausted by the letter addressed by Zhendov to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers on 9 March 1950.

In his letter, Zhendov reveals his ideological platform for the struggle against the party in the sphere of art. He declares that the Central Committee is not correctly informed of the conditions prevailing in artistic work and the attitude of the painters, and due to this failure, is taking erroneous measures in regard to these problems and is becoming the victim of gossip, intrigue, and conspiracy.

Zhendov further expresses himself as follows: "In spite of the ideological and political aid extended by the Fifth Party Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party, and its financial aid (seen in the doubled number of contracts, commissions, purchases, free studios, etc.), the artistic production of painters during the last 2 years has dropped by 50 percent. The subject matter, which is now considered the main problem of art ... has likewise not shown any progress during the period, and artistic craftsmanship has sunk below the level shown at any exhibition of 20 years ago. ... Instead of ideological clarification, an intelligent and well-defined program of action against class enemies, and the establishment of a basis for socialist realism, there is nothing but thoughtless, chaotic confusion. Instead of organization, there is disorganization. Instead of collective leadership and the all-out enrollment of artists in creative and social activity, there is administrative terror and commandeering. Instead of constructive criticism and self-criticism, there is the throttling of all criticism, thereby creating a breeding ground for slander, intrigue, etc. ... The few official articles of party members with their endless quotations from party documents, and the empty phraseology about the decay of capitalist art while Bulgarian pictorial art is flourishing, do little to disperse the ideological mist and mostly serve only to settle personal accounts...

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

[illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

The party committee of Sofia is one of the best equipped, with its more than 10,000 books, 33 Bulgarian and Soviet newspapers, and 120 periodicals. Stenographic lecture records and other materials are kept on file regularly. Besides, the Sofia party committee publishes monthly propaganda, information, and bibliographical bulletins. The committee library in Pleven has 2,500 books and albums. All committee libraries should have expert librarians, who will also have to provide the necessary material for the political study courses.

Before the beginning of the courses, the committees must establish seminars to train propaganda personnel for clubs, political schools, agitation groups, etc. During the past school year, the seminars proved to be highly useful for this purpose.

The best way to acquire an essential knowledge of the Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin theories lies in the independent work and self-education of party members. However, during the past year, self-education programs have been seriously lagging and party committees will have to provide more assistance and encouragement to self-educators. The latter must be provided with planned Communist self-education lists and helped in every way to complete their studies by lectures, consultations, etc. A sufficient number of consultants must always be on hand, and the group supervised by each of them should not exceed ten party members.

The party committees are to form the basis for the political indoctrination of the masses and to produce well trained agitators. They will also prepare and collect material for agitation purposes; organize lectures for agitation group leaders and individual agitators on every international, nations, and economic problem, party, and government policies, etc.; and conduct lessons on methods and forms of agitation. Furthermore, the committees will produce and publish educational literature and other material for agitation campaigns.

The most important assignments of the committees can be fulfilled only with the assistance of the party and its propaganda and agitation sections.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL MILITIA DAY -- Sofia Rabotnichesko Delo, 10 Sep 50

The National Militia was established 10 September 1944 from among the troops which were fighting for the liberation of the country. It consists of two units: I, the National Guard, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defense; and II, the National Militia, in charge of internal security and under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

During the last 6 years the Militia has conducted an unrelenting struggle for internal security, upheld public order and the democratic laws of the country, and safeguarded the lives and property of its citizens. It holds first place among the forces directed to eliminate the remnants of Fascism. It had an active part in apprehending and delivering to the courts all those who were guilty of involving Bulgaria in the war at the side of Hitlerite Germany. Subsequently, the Militia has been instrumental in exposing and eliminating the spy nests of the Anglo-American imperialists, the Kostov gang, the Tito clique, and other provocateurs and enemies. It is constantly on the alert against all the enemies of the regime and eagerly studies and follows the methods employed by its Soviet colleagues. The Militia faithfully carries out the orders of the government, the party, and the personal suggestions of Vulko Chervenkov. Celebrating its sixth anniversary, it once more pledges to defend its government and remain forever devoted to Stalin and the USSR.

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

SENTENCE FORMER DEPUTY MINISTERS -- Zurich Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 28 Aug 50

Sofia, 27 August (AFP) -- On the evening of 21 August, Sofia Court passed sentences in a trial in which 15 Bulgarians were accused of "having belonged to the treacherous organization of Traycho Kostov." Among the accused were seven former deputy ministers. Bonyu Petrovski, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, and Lyubomir Kayrakov, former Deputy Minister of Electrification, were sentenced to life imprisonment, while the former Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade [not identified] were sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. According to the Bulgarian News Agency, all the accused admitted their guilt and thanked the court for its clemency.

- E N D -

- 4 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL